

The 21th International Fragrant Rose Trials
in
Echigo Hillside Park, Nagaoka, Japan
(Echigo-IFRT)

Guidelines for Applications

National Echigo Hillside Park

2025

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The Purpose of the Trials

The purpose of the trials is to encourage the well-balanced development of rose breeding, in particular the breeding of roses suited to cold, snowy regions, which will thus add to the attraction of the rose garden in Echigo Hillside Park. Special emphasis is placed on fragrance – developing new fragrance, without neglecting our ancestors' achievements, as an old Chinese adage goes.

Sponsor: National Echigo Hillside Park

Supported by: The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan.
The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries of Japan.
Niigata Prefecture.
Nagaoka City.

1. Eligibility for Applications: Breeders both professional and amateur, in Japan and overseas, and also agents (including nurseries) for such breeders
When an agent is the applicant, documentation from the breeder which states that they have entrusted the agent with the application for the trials must be provided.
The sponsor of the trials bears no responsibility for matters concerning the intellectual property rights and/or sales rights of the breeders. If any problems occur, they should all be resolved between the parties concerned. Awards may be revoked by the sponsor depending on the outcome.
2. Acceptable Rose Varieties:
 - (1) Varieties that have never been on the market within or outside Japan, or varieties that were first made available for sale on or after January 1, 2022.
Up to two entries are allowed per variety.
 - (2) Categories of Acceptable Rose Varieties:
 - Part 1: Large-flowered Roses (HTs, Grandifloras)
 - Part 2: Floribunda Roses (F) (Cluster-flowered)
 - Part 3: Shrubs(S)
 - Part 4: Miniature Roses, Mini-floras, Patio Roses, and PolyanthasClimbers are excluded from all of the above categories.
 - (3) Limited to a total of four varieties per single breeder. There is no limitation on which variety categories can be entered.
An agent for multiple breeders can submit a total of four varieties for each breeder.
 - (4) The Number of Trees per Variety:
Three trees per single variety.
Note: Includes grafted rootstock up to 3-yrs old. Excludes custom shaped or trained roses such as standard roses.
3. Entry Fee: Free of charge

4. Location: The trial is conducted in the trial grounds of the National Echigo Hillside Park.

5. Entry Process:

(1) Addressee and deadline for Application form

The application form should be sent to the Management Office of National Echigo Hillside Park by Friday , March 20th , 2026.

Address: National Echigo Hillside Park

1950-1 Miyamotohigashikata-machi, Nagaoka-shi, Niigata-Pref
940-2082 Japan

Tel: (81)258-47-8001 Fax: (81)258-47-8002

URL: <https://echigo-park.jp/>

E-mail: echigo-plant@green-s.co.jp
echigo-webmaster@prfj.or.jp

(2) Addressee and deadline for rose trees

The rose trees should arrive at the National Echigo Hillside Park either from November 15th through December 15th , 2025, or from March 1st through the end of March, 2026.

*Please send the rose trees after submitting the application form.

(3) Sending rose trees from outside Japan:

(a) Rose trees should be **sent by airmail**. The applicant bears all responsibility for ensuring that the package undergoes quarantine inspection by the Japanese government, i.e. an original phytosanitary certificate issued by the government of his or her own country (a copy is not acceptable) and a label for customs inspection, clearly indicating that the contents are rose trees, should be attached to the parcel.

Roses which do not meet the above conditions, or those which are sent by sea mail, will not be accepted for inspection, and will be discarded.

*Please note that when sending rose trees from certain countries it may also be necessary to have an inspection on the field performed by the relevant government agency of the country of origin.

(b) Applicants are responsible for the cost of transportation including any quarantine charges in the country of origin and in Japan. We cannot accept the rose trees with insufficient postage. We cannot make up any shortfall such as quarantine inspection fees etc.

(c) Entry code labels must be put on each tree to be entered with no exceptions.

6. Judging and Commendation:

Judging is conducted according to the "Guidelines for Judging".

Outline:

(1) Judging Committee:

Chairperson: Yoshihiro Ueda (Visiting Professor, Gifu International Academy of Horticulture)

Deputy: Yushi Terazima (Perfumer)

Kokichi Komita (President of Niigata Rose Society)

Naoki Ishikawa (Honorary President of Niigata Rose Society)

Naoharu Watanabe (Professor Emeritus, Shizuoka University)

Yuki Mikanagi (Curator of Herbarium, Natural History Museum and Institute, Chiba)

Hideko Ishiguro (Rose researcher, Director of Ishiguro Music Academy)

Minobu Maekawa (Garden Designer)

Naomi Okubo (Institute of Vegetable and Floriculture Science, NARO Head of Research Promotion Office)
Johji Nishio (WFRS International Judges Committee / President of Machida Rose Society)
Atsushi Joichi (Perfumer)
Kota Sano (Perfumer)
Sumio Masuta (Director of Echigo Hillside National Government Park Office)

(2) Judging Periods:

June (spring) and October (autumn) 2027

(3) Judging and Marking:

Special emphasis is placed on fragrance.

Out of 100 points: 30 for fragrance, 10 for vigor, 15 for disease resistance, 10 for number of flower buds, 10 for quality of flowers, 5 for weather resistance, 5 for novelty, and 15 for general effect.

(4) Prizes: Gold, silver, and bronze prizes for each category.

The following three prizes are awarded in addition to the above.

- * Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Award: This prize is awarded to the highest scoring winner among the Gold Award Winners.
- * Niigata Prefectural Governor's Award: This prize is awarded to the highest scoring winner in the fragrance section among the winners of Gold, Silver, and Bronze awards.
- * Nagaoka City Mayor's Award: This prize is awarded to the variety voted most popular by general visitors to our park.

7. Other:

(1) Conditions at the trial grounds can be found in the Rose Trial information provided on the Echigo Hillside Park homepage under the following Data link.

https://echigo-park.jp/fragrant_roses/competition/

(2) Rose trees are planted in the trial ground as follows:

- (a) Trees which arrive between November 15th and December 15th 2025 will be planted soon after arrival.
- (b) Trees which arrive between March 1st and the end of March 2026 will be planted by the middle of April.

(3) The trees entered into the trial and planted in the trial ground will stay there and be open to the public until the trial ends.

(4) The growth and other conditions of the entered trees will be displayed on the home page of the National Echigo Hillside Park.

Photos of the entered trees may also appear in reports on the trials, in the Park's newsletters, and in other publications.

(5) Handling of trees upon completion of the trial:

Submitted trees become the property of the National Echigo Hillside Park, and will not be returned to you.

Some of the winning trees will be planted in other areas of the park, and will be on public display. All other remaining trees will be discarded after the trial.